the lepidopteran interest has been considered but that there are other higher priorities, but it is just as likely that the needs of particular moths have not been considered. The county moth recorder is likely to have contact with or know of the relevant local conservation agencies who can advise on and follow up management issues, sometimes resulting in a more favourable outcome.

Find out and get to know the land-owners and managers of sites you visit regularly and keep them informed of the moths you see and what is known of their habitat requirements. The computer database package RECORDER has pre-written paragraphs on the status, habitat and foodplants of each moth species which can be used to automatically annotate any lists of species which you make. This is the simplest way of identifying the species of highest priority on the site and giving an indication of what the most important features of the site are likely to be. More detailed accounts have been published for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan species. If you are concerned about any Nationally Scarce or Red Data Book moth species you can also contact the Moth Officers at Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP. E-mail dgreen@butterfly-conservation.org).

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Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* (L.) (Lep.: Pieridae) recorded from *Brassica rapa*

Several caterpillars of the Orange-tip butterfly *Anthocharis cardamines* were found feeding on the developing siliquae of *Brassica rapa* on 5 June 2001. The determination was confirmed by Dave Goulson, University of Southampton. The site was at a canal boat moorings by the Kennett and Avon Canal near Claverton, Bath (O.S.grid reference ST 787633). Normally, this species is oligophagous with the preferred host plants being lady's smock *Cardamine pratensis*, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* and charlock *Sinapis arvensis*; *C. pratensis* and *A. petiolata* are by far the most preferred food plant (Dempster,

1997. *Oecologia* **111:** 549-556), although it has been reported from some 35 other host plants (Courtney & Duggan, 1983. *Ecol Entomol* **8:** 271-281). Whilst this is by no means a new record, as it was reported by Courtney & Duggan (*op. cit.*), many of the previous observations should be questioned because of the considerable difficulty in the definitive identification of *B. rapa*. Many records of *B. rapa* are probably escaped oilseed rape *Brassica napus*, as the two species look remarkably similar. The owner of the site was persuaded to maintain the population of *B. rapa* intact, which presumably will go some way to conserve the local population of Orange-tips.– JAMIE P. SUTHERLAND, School of Biological Sciences, University of Southampton, Bassett Crescent East, Southampton SO16 7PX (Email: jamie.sutherland@soton.ac.uk).

Voltinism of Ruby Tiger *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* (L.) (Lep.: Arctiidae) and other macro-moths in the Watford district, Hertfordshire

In common with West (*Ent. Rec.* **113**: 187), and in contrast to Plant (1993. *Larger Moths of the London Area.* London Nat. Hist. Soc.), I find that the second generation of the Ruby Tiger *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* is common in the Watford area. Indeed, I have no personal observations of the spring generation, which only occasionally comes to light in Britain, and have never seen the species flying by day in Hertfordshire (vice-county 20). At Garston, the second brood was recorded at actinic light in three of the six years 1995-2000, on all occasions appearing between 20 July and 16 August; my records from other locations in the district during 2000 and 2001 display the same pattern. This increasing prominence of the second brood has, as West notes, been widely observed in the southern counties, and is reflected in the text of the two editions of Skinner (1984. *Moths of the British Isles.* Viking) – originally said to be "mainly single-brooded... with a partial second generation in August and September", but the 1998 update confidently stating that the moth is double-brooded. The greater frequency at light of the second generation is there emphasised.

Three other species show a significantly different seasonal pattern to that recorded in Plant (*op. cit.*). The presumed second generation of the Straw Dot *Rivula sericealis* (Scop.), described as frequent in southern Britain by Skinner (*op. cit.*), but not mentioned in Plant, now appears to be annual in this district. Between 6 and 22 August 2000, I recorded the species in actinic traps at two local sites. In 2001 it was frequent at mv light at Garston between 22 June and 6 July; five weeks elapsed before another appeared on 13 August. For vice-county 30, Arnold et. al. (1997. *The Butterflies and Moths of Bedfordshire.* Bedfordshire Natural History Society) report the species as occurring up to the week of 10 – 16 September, and the published results for National Moth Night on 23 September 2000 (*Atropos* **13**: 2-15) show a widespread distribution on that date in the southern half of England and Wales, with one record for north-west England.